unable to compose its differences and present a united front against the invaders, and in 316 the grandson of Wu Ti and the fourth Emperor of the line surrendered to one of the barbarian chiefs, abdicated, and shortly afterward was put to death.

AN ERA OF DIVISION: THE CHINESE STATES OF THE SOUTH

Now came a period of division. In the Yangtze Valley princes of Chinese blood ruled, and their domains extended along the south coast. Occasionally they pressed their boundaries northward beyond the confines of the basin of the Yangtze. In the North non-Chinese peoples established states. They usually adopted Chinese culture and their leaders often aspired to the title of Emperor. The time was one of great confusion, but the reader may be helped to see its main features by the somewhat artificial device of outlining first the chief political events in the South and then those in the North,

In the South a branch of the Ssii-ma family maintained itself somewhat precariously for a little over a century (317-420) with its capital on the Yangtze at a place denominated Chien-yeh or Chien-k'ang (now Nanking) and is known as the Eastern Chin. Much of the course of the dynasty was punctuated by revolts and intrigues—the common lot of all Chinese ruling houses—and also by wars with the states on the north. About the middle of the fourth century the throne was dominated by an unusually able general, Huan Wen, who regained for his master Szechwan (for the preceding third of a century or so largely comprised in a Chinese state in that region founded in *c.* 304 by a family who had assumed the imperial title) and for a time extended

the frontiers of the Eastern Chin to include much of the North China plain. So powerful was he that he deposed the reigning Emperor and placed his own puppet, still of the Ssii-ma family, on the throne. This puppet, it is generally supposed, was to abdicate upon demand in favor of the king-maker. However, he died prematurely and was soon followed to the grave by the ambitious Huan Wen. The Ssii-ma line thus obtained a fresh reprieve and reigned for nearly half a century longer.

The end of the Eastern Chin came in 420, brought about by another ambitious general, Liu YiL Liu Yii claimed descent from a brother of the founder of the Han dynasty but had been born